



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (14-4728)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio,
Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D.,
Commissioner Donald S. Andrews and Commissioner Susan Burton

Excused: Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Staff present: Roy Sinclair and Jenny Kimbell (14-4755)

Call to Order. (14-4669)

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a
moment of silence.**

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the October 8, 2014 Minutes. (14-4670)

**On motion of Commissioner Cheryl Grills, seconded by Vice Chairperson
Frank S. Bacio and unanimously carried, this item was approved.**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Department Representative Reports for October 15, 2014:

Department of Auditor-Controller (AC)

- Monthly Report

Department of Mental Health (DMH)

- Monthly Report

Internal Services Department (ISD)

- Monthly Report

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

- Monthly Report

Probation Department (PD)

- Monthly Report

Sheriff's Department

- Monthly Report (14-4671)

Auditor-Controller (AC)

Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report for the month of September 2014:

16 Total calls

- 13 Youth callers
- 3 Adult callers

21 calls related to Collaboration Contacts/Referrals/Information

- 6 DCFS – Social Worker
- 1 Community Care Licensing
- 4 Group Home Providers
- 3 Probation Ombudsman
- 1 Attorney
- 3 General Information
- 1 Department of Mental Health
- 2 DCFS – Out-of-Home Care Management

2 Personal Rights

- Respect (Dream Home Care; Careprovider)

1 Personal

- Neglect (Dimondale Lancaster – Probation Youth)

4 Other

- Placement (David & Margaret)
- Self-Harm (Vista Del Mar)
- Attorney Contact/Court Date (Children Are Our Future)
- Privacy (Murrell's)

Visits/Outreach 12 sites

- Penny Lane Centers – 11 sites
- Aviva Center – 1 site

Department of Mental Health (DMH)

There was no representative present to report.

Internal Services Department (ISD)

The Commissioners expressed concerns pertaining to West Covina and Inglewood Courts. Brian Lear, Building Crafts Superintendent, answered questions posed by the Commission.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Ms. Sonya Noil, DCFS, reported that during the month of September 2014, there were a total of 784 AWOLs and the child abuse hotline received a total of 31 referrals in the following categories:

- 1 Emotional abuse
- 15 General neglect
- 7 Sexual abuse
- 7 Physical abuse
- 1 Severe neglect

During the same reporting period, 13 referrals were closed in the following categories:

- 1 Emotional abuse
- 2 General neglect
- 8 Physical abuse
- 2 Sexual abuse

Ms. Noil also reported that Pennacle Foundation Inc. was placed on a termination hold as of September 24, 2014.

Probation Department (PD)

Ms. Pamela Pease, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Group Home Monitoring and Investigations Unit, Placement Services Bureau, PD, provided the monthly status report of group home AWOLs for the month of September 2014 as follows:

There were 108 AWOLs

- **99 Youth involved**
 - **42 Remain AWOL**
 - **35 Returned to group homes**
 - **9 Youth AWOL more than once**
 - **14 Placed in Juvenile Hall**
 - **6 Camp Community Placement**
 - **1 Home**
 - **1 Terminated**

Ms. Pease also provided the Commission with a detailed report of the status on group home monitoring, investigations and statistical findings regarding AWOLs.

Mr. Michael Varela, Director of Camp Gonzales, reported that the Department of Justice has completed their investigation of how children are being treated in Probation camps and assuring that children have some type of program to attend once they are discharged. He also reported that Los Angeles Trade Technical College will be starting their automotive programs this month, and they are working with Mission College to offer online courses.

Sheriff Department (LASD)

Sargeant Yolanda Palomo, LASD, reported that Twin Towers Detention Facility is working in collaboration with the DMH to provide the best care for the mentally ill inmates. They are working with the inmates to maintain the cleanliness of their cells and getting them more involved with others. The department is also providing training to deputies and staff on how to manage situations involving the mentally ill. She further reported that the Education Based Incarcerated program is thriving and teaches inmates life skills and various skills for the mind, body and spirit that will aid them in re-entry into society.

Sargeant Palomo also answered questions posed by the Commission

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Chairperson's Report on various items for October 15, 2014. (14-4673)

Chair Montañño shared the following articles with the Commissioners:

Los Angeles Times:

- **L.A. County Seeking to Aid Child Prostitutes (October 10, 2014)**
- **A Bittersweet Return for Baca (October 12, 2014)**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Treasurer's Report for October 15, 2014. (14-4678)

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$260.15.

5. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports for October 15, 2014. (14-4679)

There was no report presented.

6. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on October 15, 2014. (14-4680)

In Compliance:

Commissioner Bigby visited:

- **Phoenix House Group Home (Eldridge Avenue, Lake View Terrace, CA) on October 10, 2014.**

Commissioner Grills visited:

- **House of Bethesda (Firmona Avenue, Lawndale, CA) on October 10, 2014.**

Vice Chairperson Bacio visited:

- **Boys/Girls Republic (Redcliff Street, Los Angeles, CA) on October 9, 2014.**

Unavailable:

Commissioner Bigby visited:

- **Phoenix House Group Home (Eldridge Avenue, Lake View Terrace, CA) on October 9, 2014 and reported that staff was off-site in a meeting.**

7. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from October 9, 2014 to October 14, 2014. (14-4681)

During the reporting period, the following group homes/facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

Chairperson Montaña and Commission Andrews visited:

- **Aviva Center/ Hamburger Home (Camino/Palmero, Los Angeles, CA) on October 10, 2014.**

Commissioner Bigby visited:

- **Heritage Group Home (Baseline Road, La Verne, CA) on October 14, 2014 and reported that bedroom number four needs a new dresser drawer.**

During the reporting period, the following group homes/facilities were visited but not inspected:

Commissioners Grills and Burton visited:

- **Pinnacle Foundation (Corning Avenue, Los Angeles, CA) on October 13, 2014 and reported that the home has been closed and is now occupied by a resident.**

Commissioner Grills visited:

- **Cunningham Group Home (Chesley Avenue, Los Angeles, CA) on October 14, 2014 and reported that the house was tented for fumigation and there was a for sale sign in the yard.**

Chairperson Montaña and Commission Andrews visited:

- **Penny Lane (Osborne Street, Arleta, CA) on October 14, 2014 and reported that no was home.**

III. DISCUSSION

8. Discussion and recommendation for SBC to support the completion of needs assessment Education Based Incarceration (EBI) programs and other inmate enrichment opportunities to promote rehabilitation and decrease recidivism at the Century Regional Detention Center (CRDF). (14-4682)

On motion of Commissioner Grills, seconded by Commissioner Burton and unanimously carried, the Commission agreed to support the efforts

of Loyola Marymount University to complete a needs assessment for their Education Based Incarceration programs and other inmate enrichment opportunities to promote rehabilitation and decrease recidivism at the Century Regional Detention Center.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

9. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-4683)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

10. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-4684)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

11. Adjournment for the meeting of October 15, 2014. (14-4685)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of October 15, 2014 at 11:49 a.m.